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Brussels, 8 May 1990

**ACTION PHARE**

**Community adopts programmes of higher education cooperation  
with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe**

The Foreign Affairs Council adopted yesterday the TEMPUS scheme which is designed for a five year period with an initial pilot phase of three years and is a companion programme to existing Community programmes such as ERASMUS and LINGUA, adapted, however, to the specific needs of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Its proposed budget for 1990 amounts to 20 million ECU relating to Poland and Hungary only, covering more or less 335 joint projects and 1 000 mobility grants.

The major objectives of the scheme are to make a significant contribution to the medium and longer term development of the higher education and training systems in the Central and Eastern European countries concerned while also having a strong, immediate impact. Three broad categories of activities may be financed under the TEMPUS scheme :

1. Joint European Projects for training which linking universities and/or enterprises in Eastern countries with similar bodies in at least two Member States;
2. mobility grants for teachers, students, administrative staff and industry personnel;
3. complementary activities for universities, enterprises and individuals.

TEMPUS will focus on teaching and learning activities including placements in enterprises.

1. For Joint European Projects (JEP) grants may be awarded to a consortium of partners involved in a project. The eligible activities covered by a JEP may include :
  - cooperative activities, for example : development of large scale mobility schemes for students, teachers or staff; curriculum development activities; continuing education and retraining schemes for higher education teachers/trainers; development of open/distance learning provision.
  - structural development activities in higher education such as the creation of new institutions or the restructuring of existing ones;

- specific action in priority areas : for example, training and retraining of teachers, particularly in the field of European studies or language teaching.
- 2. Mobility grants may cover periods of study, teaching and training assignments, practical placements and short visits for specific activities. They may be provided individually or, preferably as a part of a JEP.
- 3. Financial support for eligible organisations or individuals involved in complementary activities may cover measures such as support for European Associations in higher education, grants for publication/information activities, or for surveys and studies and grants for youth exchanges.

The priority subject areas for TEMPUS which have been identified to date by the eligible countries include :

- \* management and business administration
- \* applied economics
- \* applied sciences, technologies and engineering
- \* modern European languages
- \* agriculture and agro business
- \* environmental protection
- \* social and economic sciences related to the process of economic and social change in the eligible countries, including European Studies.

Management and business administration and modern European languages are a particular priority.

A central TEMPUS Office will be set up in Brussels, working under contract to the Commission, and will cooperate with national TEMPUS offices in each of the eligible countries and, where appropriate, with national agencies in the Member States. TEMPUS is planned to start in the academic year 1990-1991. Applications will be assessed as they are received and decisions taken on a rolling basis. The final date for the submission of applications for projects covering 1990-91 is 15 September 1990.

The Group of 24 countries may be involved in TEMPUS in various ways ranging from exchange of information, coordination of related national initiatives with TEMPUS, to participation in TEMPUS projects through co-financing or through the use of TEMPUS facilities for channeling bilaterally funded exchange actions.

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